



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10**

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Seattle, WA 98101-3144

REGIONAL  
ADMINISTRATOR'S  
DIVISION

April 3, 2023

Sheri Robertson  
Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
1100 Liberator Street  
Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho 83648

Dear Sheri Robertson:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the U.S. Department of the Air Force's Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Airspace Optimization for Readiness at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho (CEQ# 20210092; EPA Region 10 Project Number 19-0061-UAF). EPA has conducted its review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and our review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The CAA Section 309 role is unique to EPA and requires EPA to review and comment publicly on any proposed federal action subject to NEPA's environmental impact statement requirement.

The FEIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with a proposal to optimize airspace at the Mountain Home AFB to allow for more realistic and efficient airspace training environment, and to improve aircrew proficiency in low-altitude tactics and radar masking using mountainous terrain for survival in a highly contested environment. The existing Special Use Airspace (SUA) consists of six Military Operations Areas (MOAs) with airspace over portions of Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon and two ranges within Idaho for inert weapons deployment. The MOAs have operational floors that vary from 100-30,000 feet above ground level (AGL). The proposed action includes altitude adjustments to allow for sub- and super-sonic low altitudes aircraft training operations.

The FEIS adequately addresses our concerns about air and biological impacts. EPA recommends the Record of Decision establish a monitoring program to verify that actual noise impacts do not exceed the maximum predicted levels. EPA also recommends the ROD include a public outreach program informing individuals on how to submit a noise complaint and describing additional actions that will be taken to reduce noise impacts throughout the proposed project lifespan.

EPA also promotes the continued coordination with other federal and state agencies, affected tribes, and other impacted entities to ensure that this project is implemented in a manner protective of human health and environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the FEIS for this project. If you have questions about this review, please contact Emily Good of my staff at 208-378-5760 and [good.emily@epa.gov](mailto:good.emily@epa.gov), or me, at (206) 553-1774 or at [chu.rebecca@epa.gov](mailto:chu.rebecca@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Rebecca Chu, Chief  
Policy and Environmental Review Branch